## **CLAIMS**

1	1. A	1. A symbol expansion method comprising:		
2		selecting a map portion containing one or more map display symbols on a computer		
3	map display; and			
4		presenting a symbol expansion display related to the map portion on the computer		
5	map d	map display.		
1	2.	The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting comprises:		
2		pointing to a map display symbol with a computer pointing device.		
1	3.	The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting comprises:		
2		selecting a map portion of the computer map display containing the one or more map		
3	display symbols with the computer pointing device.			
1	4.	The method of claim 1, wherein the presenting comprises:		
2		relating the one or more map display symbols to one or more map symbol records		
3	retain	retained in a computer memory, each containing record components;		
4		selecting one or more record components from among the one or more map symbol		
5	record	records; and		
6		formatting the one or more record components for the symbol expansion display.		
1	5.	The method of claim 4, wherein the selecting one or more record components		
2	comprises:			
3		selecting record graphics components of the one or more map symbol records.		

- 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the selecting one or more record components
- 2 comprises:

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- 3 selecting record data of the one or more map symbol records.
  - 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the selecting record data comprises:

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- filtering the record data of the one or more map symbol records to provide symbol expansion data corresponding to a selected record data type.
- 1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein filtering the record data comprises:
- 2 selecting a record data type selected from the group consisting of a dollar asset range
- 3 record data type, a friendliness range record data type, a personnel size record data type, a
  - security classification record data type, a type of service record data type, and an age of
- 5 symbol record data type.
  - 9. The method of claim 6, wherein the selecting record data comprises:
- filtering the record data of the one or more map symbol records to provide symbol expansion data corresponding to a selected record data range.
- 1 10. The method of claim 6, wherein the selecting record data comprises:
- 2 algorithmically combining map symbol records to provide symbol expansion data.
- 1 11. The method of claim 4, wherein formatting comprises:
- 2 providing a list of the symbol expansion graphics, movable by the user on the
  - computer maps display, and associated with the record graphics components of the one or
- 4 more map symbol records.
- 1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein formatting further comprises:
- 2 providing a list of the symbol expansion data, movable by the user on the
- 3 computer maps display, and associated with the record data components of the one or
- 4 more map symbol records.
- 1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein providing a list of symbol expansion data
- 2 comprises:

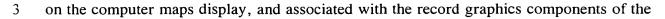
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- providing a user selectable language for the list of symbol expansion data.
  - 14. The method of claim 13, wherein formatting further comprises:

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2		providing a lead line from the map display symbol to the symbol expansion display	
3	where the lead line moves in accordance with the position of the symbol expansion		
4	displa	y.	
1	15.	The method of claim 14, wherein formatting further comprises:	
2		color coding a symbol expansion graphic to indicate an attribute of the object	
3	represented by the map display symbol.		
1	16.	The method of claim 15, wherein formatting further comprises:	
2		augmenting the symbol expansion display with special identifying characters that	
3	indica	te when symbol information components have been omitted from the symbol	
4	expansion display.		
1	17.	A symbol expansion apparatus comprising:	
2		a selection device to select a map portion containing one or more map display	
3	symbols on a computer map display; and		
4		a presentation processor that receives information concerning the one or more map	
5	displa	y symbols selected by said selecting device and which presents a symbol expansion	
6	displa	y related to the map display region on the computer map display.	
1	18.	The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the for presentation processor comprises:	
2		a computer memory having one or more map symbol records stored therein;	
3		a relation processor which relates the one or more map display symbols to one or	
4	more map symbol records retained in the computer memory;		
5		a selector for selecting one or more record components from among the one or more	
6	map symbol records; and		
7		a display processor which receives and formats each of the one or more record	
8	selected components for the symbol expansion display.		

- 19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the display processor comprises:
- 2 . means for providing a list of the symbol expansion graphics, movable by the user



- 4 one or more map symbol records.
- 1 20. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the display processor further comprises:
- 2 means for providing a list of the symbol expansion data, movable by the user on
- 3 the computer maps display, and associated with the record data components of the one or
- 4 more map symbol records.
- 1 21. The apparatus of Claims 18 wherein the selection device is adapted to select a map
- 2 portion containing the one or more map display symbols.